The Baily Star

Saturday

future," he added.

judges

resolved

conference.

none).

rag

reject."

lraq, he added.

would stage a hunger strike and

boycott the Supreme Court on

Faruk observed that the govern-

ment had given appointments to

some judges who were previously

involved in or related to the politics

of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist

Party. "If their political background

does not have any influence on their

practices there should be no objec-

tion about their confirmation in the

The Bar president warned that

people may not want to become

udges in future as the government

has ignored the chief justice's

recommendation without any

apparent reasons and not con-

firmed services of the additional

appoint any new judges before

confirming the services of the six

udges. He also urged the chief

ustice not to administer any oath to

new judges before the issue is

Majumder, Mehbube Alam

Rokonuddin Mahmud, Yusuf

Hossain Humaiyun were among

those who attended the press

ine the country for weapons of mass

destruction even though the OIC did

not doubt its claims (that it has

Iraq, he said, should destroy its

missiles as requested by the United

Nations, as a show of sincerity. But,

he stressed, the decision was up to

find it acceptable should there be a

new regime in Baghdad installed by

the United States, he said: "The US

wants to see a new regime in Iraq

whether there is a war or not. If there

is change and it is accepted by the

people of Iraq, we have no right to

touch on a change of leadership in

The informal meeting did not

Asked whether Malaysia would

Shawkat Ali Khan, Baset

He urged the government not to

2 killed,20 hurt **Gram Sarkar bill** in Bogra road mishap

agenda

FROM PAGE 1 roots level.

Local Government and Rural Development Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan defended the bill and said it was brought after reviewing the previous provision of similar nature.

Mannan piloted the bill on February 16 that proposed setting up of a Gram Sarkar at each ward of the Union

Parishad. The Gram Sarkar would include 15 members selected from the villagers.

"The aim of the bill is to include people from various segments of the society in development," Mannan told the House. The previous Gram Parishad Act,

1997 had provisions for elected representatives. But system was never put into operation. The Gram Sarkar, to be constituted

for five years, will not be an administrative unit. Rather it would be a supportive unit of the Union Parishad. The proposed Gram Sarkar would

undertake development projects such as construction of roads and culverts and review their progresses and financial aspects. It will report to the Union Parishad

about law and order, literacy programme, school enrolment, immunisation, family planning activities. It will also collect preliminary information on births, deaths, marriages and divorces

The Gram Sarkar will be empowered to supervise vulnerable group feeding and vulnerable group development programmes.

It will take measures to stop repression on women, thefts, robberies and other criminal activities.

Helping the administration in

Drowned

FROM PAGE 1 The wife of the victim Lipi, 34, said although Shah Alam was a heroin addict. he was not involved in drug business

Narayanganj district police began a special drive against drug and crime yesterday. On the first operation, the police of the arrested 54 people on various charges from different areas in the town. Of them, 15 are listed crimi-

Blair faces revolt

FROM PAGE 12

forces would not blow up Iraq's oil wells in the event of war. Baghdad's retreating forces torched fields in Kuwait at the close of the 1991 Gulf war, as US-led forces chased them out of the emirate

Meanwhile as Blair was to face the wrath of British MPs, France -among the most outspoken opponents of a war on Iraq -- was to hold a parliamentary debate on the crisis.

Together with Germany and Russia, France has presented a counter-proposal to the Council which would see the UN inspections regime in Irag extended and tough ened.

Britain, the United States and Spain have rejected the proposals. "If he is not willing to cooperate

FROM PAGE 12 Cox's Bazar highway, and took away one VC

5 dacoits

settling local disputes through negotia-UNB, Bogra tions is also on the Gram Sarkar's

Two people were killed and 20 It will inspire villagers to send their children to school, encourage tree others injured, four of them seriously, in a road accident on the plantation and environment protection and set up village co-operatives, small Dhaka-Bogra Highway yesterday Police said the accident took scale industries, poultry and fisheries

and the Union Parishad will oversee the activities of the Gram Sarkar, while the district administration will have the authority to dissolve it on any "valid reason' Opposition lawmakers Suranjit

Sengupta, Abdus Shahid, Mohammad Nasim, Shahjahan Khan Panchanon Biswas, Dr Abdur Razzak and Faruk Khan of the AL, Golam Nohammd Qader and Mashiur Rahman Ranga of the Jatiya Party, Kader Siddiqui of the Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Janata League and independent lawmaker MM Shahin pated the bill

Woman raped. killed in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The body of a young woman, who was allegedly raped and killed by unidentified men Monday night, was recovered from the river Betna at Mukundpur in Sadar upazila vesterday, police said. Police said the victim. Aniuara

Begum, 20, daughter of late Shamsuddin Sardar of village Mukundapur in Sadar upazila, was kidnapped on her way back from a religious gathering at Rajnagar on Monday night.

She was then taken to a bush near the river and gang-raped. The rapists then strangled her and threw her body into the river. Police sent the body to the Satkhira morgue for autopsy.

invasion of next-door Irag, parliament

again delayed a debate on giving the

Americans approval. The debate had

tial aid to offset the impact of a military

campaign on Turkey's fragile econ-

unnamed officials saying Bush

believes just the military aspects of

the war would cost the United States

Iraqi Vice President Taha Yassin

Ramadan said Iraq could strike

Turkey or Kuwait in the event of a US-

alone around 95 billion dollars

Ankara has demanded substan-

The Washington Post cited

first been expected on Tuesday.

A case was filed with the Satkhira Police Station. No was arrested till filing of this report last night.

ace at noon when a Dhaka-bound Chairmen of the Upazila Parishad coach from Kurigram overturned in ahbal area of Shibganj upazila. Identity of the dead and injured ould not be known The injured passengers were dmitted to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital. 'Unauthorised entry into restricted

areas in airports punishable'

UNB, Dhaka

Unauthorised persons entering the restricted areas in all airports will face stern action, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism said in a note of warning issued yesterday. The warning follows the February

20 arrest of a man who entered an aircraft at the Zia International Airport by dodging airport security.

"Sometimes unauthorised persons go beyond the VIP Lounge, up to boarding bridges and other restricted areas, and even on the tarmac of domestic airports," the note said and reminded all concerned that such entry is illegal and punishable bvlaw.

The ministry also directed the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) to take "stern legal measures" against any unauthorised entry into the airports.

Schoolboy abducted

in Kushtia

night.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

But Musharraf told journalists on Fuesday that he would like to extend Armed miscreants abducted a schoolboy from village Dairampur in a "note of friendship" to Vajpayee. Kumarkhali upazila on Tuesday Asked what he would tell the

ndian leader if he were seated next According to family sources, a to him, Musharraf said: "I would just gang of eight miscreants stormed like to tell him that our people have into the house of Dulal Gosh at the suffered enough. village at midnight and abducted his "We need to resolve disputes son Mithu Ghosh, 15, a student of and he must trust that even though I class ten of Gobindapur High School. am a military man, I am against war,' Later, the miscreants sent a he said at a news conference on the

message to Mithu's parents sidelines of the 116-nation summit. demanding Tk 5 lakh ransom for his elease

Police could not rescue the abducted schoolboy till yesterday evening.

Bankers FROM PAGE 12

more than inflow

Referring to his remarks at

Agrani Bank's conference on Saturday, he said he was misquoted by the press when he suggested that the NCBs should opt for restrained lending as credit management is an overwhelming part of banking "Pre-sanction assessment is essential," he said, and attributed the high incidence of loan defaults to dishonesty by managers in assessng projects. He criticised banks for offering nterests beyond their ability for attracting deposits. "The immediate challenge is to run banks according to their capabilities. The government on its part can assure you (banks) a healthy macroeconomic environment." he said.

Vajpayee after Kashmir row So therefore I don't think anything into a dialogue with India on all that we do can be worse than what is issues, we want to address them in Pakistan President Pervez a sincere manner. Musharraf on Tuesday struck a

Visiting Cuban President Fidel Castro walks with Chinese President Jiang Zemin (L) during a welcoming ceremony

Musharraf offers friendship to

at the Great hall of the People in Beijing. Castro arrived in China yesterday on a four-day visit.

"I only hope that we can clap because one hand is there and the other needs to come," he said.

here". Musharraf declined to be drawn into a verbal confrontation with address to NAM. I spoke about it Vajpayee, but repeated his asser-(Jammu and Kashmir) as a matter of tion that Pakistan was ready to principle." defend itself against any aggres-

Musharraf also described the rebellion against Indian rule in Kashmir, which is divided between the two nuclear-armed powers, as a

"There is a freedom struggle going on in Kashmir and if we keep calling this cross-border terrorism, we are not ever going to face reali-

The Pakistani leader said bilateral ties between the two nations. which nearly went to war last year, were so bad they could not get any worse.

"I think the situation is such that it cannot get even worse, so anything that one does, does not matter really

want to play cricket with each other

Dravid to India's rescue

FROM PAGE 1

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Himalayan region

conciliatory tone towards Indian

Prime Minister Atal Behari

Vajpayee, a day after enraging him

by referring to the "oppressed

peoples of Kashmir" in a speech to

the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

prompted Vajpayee to depart from

his prepared address to launch a

tirade against the Pakistani leader,

accusing Islamabad of sponsoring

Muslim militants in the disputed

Musharraf's comments

innings, including a run-out. The tall right-armer -- who suffered his most expensive ever oneday figures -- claimed the wickets of Mohammad Kaif and Dravid with successive balls in the last over.

added late impetus with a 38-ball 42 INDIA before he was caught at short extracover by England captain Nasser Hussain off Anderson.

Sehwag c and b Flintoff Tendulkar c C'wood b Flintoff 50 Ganguly c Trescothick b White 19 Earlier England almost had Mongia Ibw b C'wood Tendulkar out in single figures. On Dravid c C'wood b Caddick 62 eight, his mis-controlled hook shot Yuvraj c Hussain b Anderson 42 against Caddick flew down to fine Kaif c Flintoff b Caddick leg but Anderson's sprawling dive Harbhajan not out Zaheer run out

unloading operations.

end the deadlock.

He said several steps were

planned in yesterday's meeting to

6 candidates of CJ

FROM PAGE 1 ommended in favour of the eight judges," Faruk said at a press

conference at the Bar office. "We urge the law minister not to draw the chief justice into a controversy by making misleading statements," he added.

The bar association reiterated its observation that the government had violated constitutional convention by ignoring the chief justice's recommendations. It said conventionally the chief justice's recommendation has been considered as the sole criterion in deciding confirmation of the services of additional judges

PHOTO: AFF

"It is not appropriate to victimise someone on the basis of someone's pre-appointment political belief," Ozaer Faruk said. "And there are examples where a person was not victimised. Justice Sattar was a minister prior to his appointment. Kazi AT Manwaruddin was a BNP leader and he is now a judge of the Appellate Division.

"KM Hasan was an ambassador of a political government. Not one of them has ever been criticised as a judge.'

The bar association reminded the government of its ultimatum that unless it confirms the services of the six additional judges, the lawyers

Oil as a weapon

FROM PAGE 12 Khatami, Moroccan King Mohammed VI and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf.

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khadela Zia and Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri were the two women leaders at the nformal meeting.

Dr Mahathir, who chaired the discussions, conceded that oil was a double-edge weapon because many countries of the South would suffer if there was a backlash.

"If we simply pump up the price (of oil), it may cause a bad reaction. So, we have to think about it as it may hurt us more than other parties," he said, adding that the meeting did not discuss in detail how oil could be used as a weapon.

"There was no consensus made Asked about OIC members who on using oil as a weapon. But we are US allies, Dr Mahathir hoped agree to think of the possibility of they could influence the superpower using this as a weapon," he said. but there was no evidence of this so Asked on the implications should

A suggestion made at the meet-

ing was for Dr Mahathir, as NAM

chairman, to write to the UN

Security Council and the European

Union to urge them to help avoid a

capacity as Prime Minister, to influ-

"I will certainly write; even in my

war against Irag.

a war break out, he said: "Trade and Malaysia originally proposed an economy will be reversed. Many emergency OIC meeting to reach a countries, including the United definitive position on Iraq before the States, will be affected. It will put a planned attacks by the United stop to the world economy, espe-States and its allies become unstopcially that of the poor countries pable which cannot pay for oil."

But current chairman Qatar rejected that proposal, agreeing instead to host an emergency OIC meeting in early March. Dr Mahathir said the Qatar meeting on March 4 and March 5 would focus on problems faced by Muslims, mainly Israeli atrocities against Palestinians and the possible war

guilt, and nothing more. It is a sense

of guilt bred in us in a similar way as

in many religions. Adam's original

sin is felt as a present sin among the

seem to have acquired the same

sense of guilt, guilt in the sense that

we have not attained any of the

objectives set by the war. In our

speeches, writings and daily con-

versations we prefer to air a mis-

doubt, a lack of commitment, a

feeling of mission unaccomplished,

thus allowing a national malaise to

creep in the hearts of the people.

This fanatical zeal for the absolute is

related to our understanding of

history too. We think about history in

terms of events that happened once

and for all, tying up the events as

more important in themselves and

consigning them only to a fixity of

symbolic and metaphorical signifi-

cation of the historical events. and

the ideology thus formed remains

Intent on keeping the physicality

In the process we deny the

About the War of Liberation we

ence them," he said. on Iraq. He said the meeting agree Malavsia will host the OIC Iraq should fully comply with Summit in October and will take requests by UN inspectors to examover the chairmanship then

votaries.

time.

suspect.

support from Arab or other countries on the Kashmir issue at the summit, he said it "was not dealt with in particular. We did not come here to

ties," he said.

"I would like to extend a note of "We are not meeting, we don't friendship, that we would like to resolve disputes. We want to get

was too late to claim the catch.

the ground for six.

breakthrough.

fours

point

mid-off

SCOREBOARD

Tendulkar punished Caddick and

But all-rounder Flintoff made the

His fifth ball induced a leading

edge from Virender Sehwag (23)

and he took the simple return catch

to make India 60 for one in the 10th

ball, including one six and eight

more balls as he failed to keep down

a drive against Flintoff and was

caught by Collingwood at backward

by hitting White over the top but was

caught by Marcus Trescothick at

Scoreboard of the India innings

against England in their World Cup

Pool A day-night match at

Kingsmead on Wednesday:

Ganguly (19) tried to break free

Tendulkar's fifty came at a run-a-

But his innings lasted just two

hooked the Somerset quick out of

generate support for Kashmir". freedom struggle" Mongla port

FROM PAGE 12

of officials of the food department and foodgrains carrying contrac-

tors were to be held responsible for pilferage of imported foodgrains. He did not rule out the involvement of a section of customs officials in corrupt practices that create problems during loading and

already happening.

PTI adds: Musharraf said he

"I did not name anyone in my

Asked if he had received any

"had no intention of raising tempers

time will not help," Blair said on Tuesday. "It takes no time at all for Saddam to cooperate. It just takes a fundamental change of heart and mind."

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar backed up that message on Spanish radio.

"I do not favour giving tyrants more time, because they will not use it to disarm, but to arm themselves," he said.

Aznar was to meet French President Jacques Chirac for talks over the standoff, with the Spanish leader, fresh from a weekend meeting with US President George W. Bush, to argue the case for the new resolution.

In Turkey, where the United States hopes to send tens of thousands of troops to prepare for an



Bombs found yesterday at a mehfil (religious gathering) of the Pir of

Charmonai in Barisal. (Story on page 1)

camera and other valuables at about 3.00am yesterday. When the dacoits were fleeing

the housemates of Hasan and his neighbours raised a hue and crv drawing hundreds of villagers, police informed.

The angry mob then chased the dacoits and caught five of them at Muradabad area of Chandanaish thana.

The mob started beating the dacoits and they died on the spot police said. The mob also tried to chase other

members of the gang but failed to catch them, police added. Later, police rushed to the spot

and recovered the bodies. Police said investigation was on to trace out the identity of the dacoits.

He pointed out that lack of proper recovery process, internal auditing and financial control, and legal managers are the weaknesses of the banking sector. "I've never seen any agenda on

loan recovery and appraisals in the minutes of the board meetings of NCBs." he said in this context.

The minister also dismissed collateral system of lending as "rubbish" and said there had been no instance since 1979 of recovering default loans by selling mortgaged lands and buildings.

After the meeting, Saifur Rahman told newsmen that the government has initiated reforms in bank boards but people who had received loans by virtue of their political influence instead of the quality of their projects are opposed to such reforms.

"Everything depends on the board of directors. It would not be worthwhile if the board becomes an association for looting," said Syed Manzur Elahi, summing up the seminar

Charmonai

FROM PAGE 1

PHOTO: STAF

device, were found at the site. Police claimed that Sudhir, son

of Laxmi Kant Halder of Kabai village under Bakerganj thana of Barisal district, confessed to being involved with the sabotage plan.

Some people believe that miscreants responsible for the Udichi or the Ramna bombings might have planned the attack.

Another groups believes that it might have been the result of family feuds or rivalry between the Pir and his step brothers.

The home of Syed Kawsar Hossain, a step brother of the Pir, came under attack vesterday morning

And Alec Stewart wrapped up a team hattrick by running out Zaheer Khan, who was out trying to steal a single without facing a ball

Incredibly, Javagal Srinath became the fourth wicket to fall in as many deliveries, when he lofted to Marcus Trescothick in the deep off the last ball of the innings.

Earlier Andrew Flintoff's miserly unchanged spell of two for 15 in 10 overs stifled the innings and also included the prize wicket of Sachin Tendulkar -- who made 50 -- when the master batsman was on course for a hundred.

India, 91 for one after 15 overs following captain Saurav Ganguly's decision to bat first, seemed set for a huge score in this pool A day-night encounter.

But, as the Kingsmead floodights brightened, India's innings dimmed, just 40 runs coming in the next 15 overs for the loss of two wickets as batsmen struggled to time the ball.

However, Yuvraj Singh -- who made a vital 69 in India's one day final win against England in July --

Kiwis see off Tigers

FROM PAGE 1

point of view had McMillan's edge carried to Akram Khan in the second slip and Habibul Bashar not spilled a dolly catch at mid-wicket when New Zealand skipper Fleming was on 2.

Fleming scored a breezy 32 in the opening stand of 71 runs before the left-hander became the first of medium pacer Khaled Mahmud's three victims. Mahmud finished with 3-46

Chris Cairns (33 off 21balls) and Scott Styris (37 off 37 balls) hit some lusty blows to end the game early.

Despite the defeat, it was an nspiring outing for Bangladesh before their final game against Kenya at the Wanderers in Johannesburg on March 1.

Ashraful's stroke-play apart, captain Khaled Mashud and veteran Mohammed Rafique put on a record Bangladesh record 70 runs for the eighth wicket as the Tigers recovered from a typical top-order collapse.

Opening the innings Ashraful finally lived up to his potential. The

attacking right-hander played some exquisite shots in his swashbuckling knock.

was at 22 when he played an attempted pull against Jacob Oram

Ashraful continued to entertain nearly a hundred Bangladeshi supporters as he reached his fifty hitting Cairns for four through the backward point. His previous best was 45 against the West Indies in Dhaka early this year. It was also the first fifty by any Bangladeshi bats-

But apart the absorbing the eighth wicket partnership and the superb half-century by Ashraful, the Bangladeshi batsmen disappointed

a150km Bond delivery to New Zealand keeper Brendon McCullum in the seventh over. Sanwar Hossain dragged the ball on to his

Srinath c Trescothick b Caddick 0 Extras: (b-1, lb-4, w-9, nb-3) 17 Total: (For 9 wkts in 50 overs) 250 Fall of wickets: 1-60, 2-91, 3-107, 4-155, 5-217, 6-250, 7-250, 8-250, 9-250 OMRW Rowler

Domici	<u> </u>				
Caddick	10	0	69	3	1
Anderson	10	0	61	1	0
Flintoff	10	2	15	2	1
White	10	0	57	1	1
Irani	6	0	28	0	
C'wood	4	0	15	1	

ENGLAND: Nasser Hussain, Marcus Trescothick, Nick Knight, Michael Vaughan, Alec Stewart Paul Collingwood, Andrew Flintoff, Craig White, Ronnie Irani, Andrew Caddick, James Anderson,

Toss: India Umpires: Rudi Koertzen (Rsa) and Simon Taufel (Aus)

TV umpire: Asoka De Silva (Sri) Match referee: Ranjan Madugalle (Sri)

mistimed pull in his next over.

(Scoreboard on page 15)

Amar Ekushey in Ctg

FROM PAGE 10

32

moment before the line got straight again. But there was in it, in the girl's persistence to pick up the dropped flowers as if her very life had depended on it, such a great touch of sincerity and dedication that watching it tears came to the eyes of the club members sitting in the restaurant.

Recognised as the International Mother Language Day, the 21st February has attained the global importance long due. But here in our own country we do not seem content with how the day is being observed. Spirit of the day, which Dr Kamal Hossain has defined as having three values: Fight for justice. the sense that might is not right, and the power to establish people's power over autocracy, may also be summed up as a continuous urging on the nation to advance toward progress on the wheel of the mother tongue, that is, Bangla,

But it is easier said than done. So in the year 2003, on the 21st February, we discover once again that we have failed to establish the spirit of the day in what we think and what we do. We, therefore, feel much undone: our conscience remains bruised, and the famous couplet of poet Abdul Hakim, "those who are of this Bengal, but hate Bangla, whose children they are cannot be determined" spanks us anew.

But this ruptured conscience results not from any factual basis, Wily campaigner Akram Khan, but from a superannuating feeling that every social phenomenon starts with a set goal that has to be achieved. So, as long as Bangla is not established in every sphere of life, we think that nothing has been achieved.

This perception is absolutistic in ball of his second spell. Bond then moral and ethical dimension, and took the prized scalp of Ashraful as denies social reality that is all but he took a return catch of another absolutistic. And, more often, paradoxically so, it breeds a sense of With another paltry score on the guilt in us as we think that we are not cards, Rafique joined Mashud to doing enough to uphold the spirit of crack 60 runs in the last ten overs the day.

> Because of this burden of guilt it appears that the value of the 21st February to us is tantamount to getting ourselves absolved of a

of the events as intact as possible we constrict the growth of the metaphorical signification of the ideals. The failure is consequential as young people growing up learn to take this distorted view of history as true, and they in their turn find themselves at war with this sense of guilt as if they had made a mistake somewhere. We should rather be guided by the fact that historical materiality is one thing, and should not be confused with the ideological construct that calls for reorientation, realign-

ment, readjustment, and recreation, in correspondence with the nature of human society, which is ever most fecund, protean, and dynamic.

Likewise the 21st February and the War of Liberation have greater accommodative capacity than we believe. They will digest all contradictions as smoothly as anything. They are not fragile things likely to disintegrate at every challenge. So why moan, why lament, why suffer from a sense of guilt!

went for a mind-baffling pull off the very first ball he faced. Alok Kapali too played a pull shot despite two fielders strategically placed along the square leg boundary and holed out to Bond leaving

the team in trouble at 71-4. playing his first game after flying in as a replacement for Mashrafeebin-Mortuza, was beginning to provide good support to Ashraful but their 34 runs partnership for the fifth wicket was broken by Bond who had Akram caught at slips with the first

man in this World Cup.

stumps and Habibul Bashar offered a tame catch to McCullum as he The only blemish of his innings

straight to Chris Cairns at deep square leg but the champion allrounder dropped the catch.

yet again. Opener Hannan Shah nicked

and took Tigers to a face-saving total